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JAPS LOSE IN SKIRMISH ON LAND

Fifty Scouts Surprised While Making Landing By Detachment of Sharpshooters and are All Killed.

Four Russians Seek Safety By Swimming River Near Village.

FLIGHT COVERED BY FRIENDS

Pursuing Boat Is Sunk and the Japanese Occupants Meet Death at Hands of Enemy—Russians Lose a Man.

St. Petersburg, April 12.—General Kurpatkin, in a dispatch to the emperor bearing today's date, says that General Kraaninski, on the night of April 8, ordered a detachment of sharpshooters to cross to the left bank of the Yalu opposite Wiju. The sharpshooters landed on the island of Samilind and surprised a patrol of 50 Japanese scouts just as the latter were approaching the east side of the island in three boats. The Russians allowed the Japanese to land and then fired on them. Nearly all the Japanese were shot, bayoneted or drowned and their boats sunk. The Russians sustained no losses. On the following day the Japanese lowered their flag at Wiju.

On the night of April 9 four Russians crossed the Yalu to Yongampho and made toward a Russian village, where they found a squadron of Japanese cavalry. They remained 12 hours, when they were betrayed by Koreans and found themselves obliged to swim the river, their boat having struck on the sand bank. One soldier lost his life.

The Japanese pursued the Russians in a boat, but were in turn attacked by a Russian boat which had come to rescue the swimmers.

The Japanese were all killed and their boat sunk.

Two Battles Looked For.

St. Petersburg, April 12.—According to telegraphic advices received by the Novosti from its correspondent at

Liao Yang the bombardment of Port Arthur and a fight on the Yalu are expected momentarily.

Russians Sink Junk.

London, April 12.—The Times' Niu-chwang correspondent, cabling April 11, says:

"Last night a pilot's flare was mistaken for the lights of a Japanese fleet and Russians fired and sank a junk with 35 hands, besides killing three persons and wounding seven in another junk. The native population is panic stricken and leaving town."

DEMOCRATS FOR PARKER.

So Says Member of House at Close of Race Discussion.

question again was injected into the proceedings of the house of representatives today when Mr. Scott of Kansas delivered a long address in which he referred to his previous statement that it was current in Kansas that ex-President Cleveland had dined with C. S. H. Taylor, a Kansas negro politician. He read several letters from Kansas citizens that it had been Taylor's boast that he had received such social attention from Mr. Cleveland. He also said Cleveland, while governor of New York, had signed a bill providing for mixed schools. In a spirited reply Williams of Mississippi, defended the attitude of the south toward the negro.

At the instance of Mr. Bartless of Georgia a letter from ex-President Cleveland was read, denying he had ever dined a negro. Bartlett also declared Judge Parker to be the man whom the democrats will nominate for president.

After Sealskin Treasures.

Bellingham, April 12.—The object of the departure from Seattle some time since of the schooner Barbara, about which there was discussion, is declared by persons here who profess to know, to have been for the purpose of securing about \$1,000,000 worth of sealskins and ivory belonging to the Northwestern Siberian Company of St. Petersburg, Russia, and which are cached in Siberia at a point most likely to be occupied by the Japanese early in the present conflict with Russia.

Thought to Be Highwayman.

Vancouver, Wash., April 12.—Fred Armstrong, alias Frank Strong, was arrested today on suspicion of being the man who held up 12 men in the bar room of the Hotel Columbia last week and secured about \$150. Armstrong was formerly a sergeant in the Seventeenth infantry and after his discharge went to Baker City where, it is alleged, he was implicated in highway robberies.

GREAT LEGAL LIGHTS OF THE COUNTRY BEGIN BATTLE IN ST. PAUL COURT

Effort of E. H. Harriman, et al, to Regain Shares of Northern Pacific Stock Begins to Take Form.

Maxwell Evarts, Representing Plaintiffs, Starts the Ball Rolling—Elihu Root Replies on Behalf of Hill Interests, and J. Ham Lewis Also Appears, Representing Little Trust of New Jersey.

St. Paul, April 12.—A great legal battle by corporation lawyers, whose names are familiar throughout the United States, is being waged in the United States district court before Judges Sanborn, Van Deventer, Hook and Thayer. The action is based on a motion presented to the court by E. H. Harriman and others for leave to file an intervening petition for the purpose of showing why the Northern Securities Company officials should be estopped from carrying out the plan of distribution of the assets recently declared illegal.

The United States government was represented by District Attorney C. C. Hought, who presented an objection to the intervention under the direction of United States Attorney General Knox. This intervention was something of a surprise to the petitioners, who were not aware of it until after Maxwell Evarts of Ohio had opened the case for the plaintiffs, when Judge Sanborn asked him if he were aware the United States government objected to an intervening petition. The court then directed Mr. Hought to read the objection of Knox. The attorney general, reciting that notice had been served that the injunction would be asked, stated that the United States neither admits nor denies the allegation of the petition, but objects to the proposed intervention, contending that the decision of the United States supreme court ended and closed the case. He further stated that the United States stands on the decree of that court and is only concerned to see that its mandates are carried out.

In his statement Evarts contended that the securities company, in its final distribution of the assets, intended to take a course which would continue the common control of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways, to the detriment of the plaintiffs, and that the securities people could therefore be convicted of law.

Ex-Secretary of War Root, for the Hill interests, contended that there was no warrant in the general rules

of practice, in decrees of courts, nor in the statutes for this intervention.

Judge R. S. Lovett, general counsel for the Southern Pacific company, began his argument on behalf of the petitioners with the contention that, if the Northern Securities Company had been the legal owner of the stock of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern companies, it would have been entitled to the fruits of that ownership, and the attorney general would not have obtained the relief he sought in the original suit.

The decree of the court, he continued, had determined that no title to the stock ever passed to the Northern Securities Company because the company was not legally capable of holding such title. The decree further had the effect of giving the court practical custody of the stock of the Northern Securities Company. The petitioners, he said, were not asking the courts to wind up the affairs of nor dissolve the securities company. They were asking it to dispose of the stock in what they contended was the only way consistent with the decree of the court. The plan of distribution proposed by the Northern Securities Company did not dissolve the corporation. It simply reduced, or attempted to reduce, its stock in such manner as would leave the stockholders in control of both roads.

He referred to the statement of the counsel for the Northern Securities Company to the effect that the company might have sold its stock holdings, and denied this because the decree of the court determined it had never owned that stock. The stock was as much in the constructive custody of the court as if it had seized it.

When Lovett concluded former Congressman James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago appeared and stated he represented the Continental Trust Company of New Jersey, and asked to be heard as an objector to the petition. He said his company was the owner of 5000 shares of the stock of the Northern Securities Company and objected to the petition being granted, because the court had no jurisdiction. The court adjourned the case until tomorrow.

FIRING AT SEA INDICATES BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR

Chefoo, April 13.—(11 a. m.)—The correspondent of the Associated Press at Teng Chow, 40 miles northwest of here, telegraphs as follows:

"Sounds of very heavy firing were heard at 8:30 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning. The firing evidently was being done between here and Port Arthur. It is believed at Teng Chow that the long expected sea fight among the Miaotao islands has taken place."

The Japanese battleship Asahi, flying the admiral's flag, was seen off Chefoo yesterday going to the west, and there is no doubt but the remainder of the

Japanese fleet was in the vicinity of Port Arthur.

"The Russian fleet also was seen outside of Port Arthur yesterday."

Chefoo, April 13.—(Noon.)—Captain of the steamer Lockshan, which arrived today from Niu-chwang, reports that he heard heavy firing between 5 and 7 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning in the direction of Port Arthur. The firing was continuous but no ships were visible. From the direction of the sound he judged there was fighting at the entrance to Port Arthur.

SUITS ARE DISMISSED.

Troubles of Railroad Stockholders Reach Full Settlement.

New York, April 12.—Difficulties between the majority and minority stockholders of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company have been settled, according to the Herald. The settlement is said to include the purchase of the stock held by C. H. Verner of Boston and the dismissal of

his suits. Mr. Verner held in his own name 100 shares of the stock of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, the original organization, which he claimed in his bill to be worth \$200 a share. Although the strictest secrecy is maintained regarding the entire matter, it is said he received a sum greatly in excess of this amount.

Besides being rid of the suits, in one of which Judge Dunne in Chi-

cago had issued an order compelling the books of the company to be submitted and disclosure of the terms of the reorganization, the defendants have practically removed opposition to the proposed bond issue of \$163,000,000. Through the First National bank the proprietors of the Rock Island railroad system have negotiated a loan of \$5,000,000 in short time notes. The purpose of this borrowing, it was explained, is to provide immediate funds without a bond issue to reimburse the company for advancements made for construction of new lines. President Loree refused to discuss the matter in any way.

HARD FIGHT FOR HUMES.

Ex-Mayor of Seattle May Not Get Appointment Sought.

Seattle, April 12.—Thomas J. Humes, former mayor of Seattle, will have a hard fight to secure the appointment to the United States bench in Alaska, for opposition has been gaining ground in the house of representatives to the bill providing for another judicial district, over which Humes was scheduled to preside. Judge James H. Wickham, now on the bench, but whose term expires in June, wishes to succeed himself in the Valdez district, and Humes will have a hard time getting the place away from him, for he has made a record satisfying to the department of justice.

When Humes declined to be a candidate to succeed himself as mayor of Seattle in the recent campaign, the arrangement was that he was to have a good federal appointment, either in Alaska or perhaps as postmaster of Seattle, and he is beginning to worry for fear he will not get all that is due him. Representative Humphries is working hard in his interest at Washington.

HYDE-DIMMOND CASE.

Cashier Corroborates Testimony of Stenographer.

San Francisco, April 12.—Examination into the Hyde-Dimmond land fraud cases was resumed today. Benjamin F. Allen, former forest superintendent, testified regarding his acquaintance with the accused men and reports he had made on various reserves.

Special Agent Burns then testified concerning letter written by Hyde to Allen advising him how to make reports on land.

Miss Marial Doyle, formerly F. A. Hyde's cashier, corroborated some of the testimony previously given by Mrs. Belle Curtis as to the manner in which the land business of Hyde's office was conducted.

DELEGATES FOR NEW YORK NAMED

Convention of Republicans Endorse Administrations of Roosevelt and Odell.

Delegates Instructed to Work for Nomination of President at Chicago.

GOVERNOR EXPLAINS THINGS

District Delegates Cannot Be Instructed He Says, So Only Delegates at Large are Included.

New York, April 12.—The republican state convention, in session today, named as delegates at large and alternates to the national convention at Chicago: Senator Platt, Senator Dewey, Governor Odell, Frank S. Black. The platform strongly endorsed the administration of President Roosevelt and the administration of Governor Odell and delegates at large to the national convention are "directed to use all honorable means to secure the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt."

There was some discussion over the fact that "These directions" included only delegates at large, but Governor Odell explained in this way: "Since 1880, when we abandoned the plan selecting district delegates, the state convention has not, and indeed, cannot instruct district delegates."

Charles A. Schifren of Brooklyn and George Urban, Jr., of Buffalo were named as electors at large.

Immediately after adjournment the state committee unanimously elected Governor Odell chairman.

Ashore Near Port.

New York, April 12.—A dispatch from Acajutla, Salvador, which was received at the office of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's office here today states that the steamer Colon is ashore near port. All the passengers were saved and the steamer's cargo is now being transferred to lighters. Extent of the damage cannot be determined at present.

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